GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:964
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2015
Ban on Junk Food
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has banned the sale of junk foods in the school canteens;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Advisory Committee has issued any guidelines to make nutritious, safety and hygiene foods available in school canteen;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government has conducted any study on the effect of junk food on children health, if so, the details and outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)
(a) to (d): 'Junk Food' has not been defined under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations thereunder. However, draft guidelines titled 'Guidelines for making available Wholesome, Nutritious, Safe and Hygienic Food to School Children in India' prepared by the Expert Group/Central Advisory Committee as per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in matter of Writ Petition (C) No.8568 of 2010, has been issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India wherein the availability of most common HFSS (High in Fat, Salt and Sugar) Foods in schools and an area within 50 meters thereof has been restricted/limited.
(e): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), ICMR have not conducted a study on junk food. A study had, however, been conducted by NIN to assess the ill-effects of consumption of Carbonated Water beverages (CWBs) on the health of adolescents and young Adults, which showed higher increments of body fat in young consumers.